



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/608,571	06/27/2003	Edwin Bolduan	ZTP01P12032	7324

24131 7590 03/09/2005
LERNER AND GREENBERG, PA
P O BOX 2480
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33022-2480

EXAMINER

LU, JIPING

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3749

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SP

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/608,571	Applicant(s) BOLDUAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Jiping Lu	Art Unit 3749	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1-2, 6-10, 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibuya (JP8-49161) in view of Takeuchi (JP06126098A).

Shibuya shows a method for cloth dewatering. The clothes 40 is brought in contact with conveyor 10. Gas jet (at 36) is also provided for supplying gas transversely to a surface of the clothes. However, Shibuya does not show the conveyor 10 is made by absorbent material and at least two absorbent bodies on both sides of the clothing. Takeuchi teaches a cloth dewatering conveyor 40 of absorbent material for absorbing moisture and two absorbent bodies on both side of the clothing same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute conveyor 40 of Takeuchi for the conveyor 10 of Shibuya and to provide the method and apparatus of Shibuya with two absorbent bodies on both side the of the clothing as taught by Takeuchi in order to absorb clothes moisture and improve the cloth dewatering efficiency. With regard to the claimed material of the absorbent body in claim 13, examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the moisture removing art to use microfiber material as absorbent. Therefore, it would have obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the cloth dewatering apparatus of Takeuchi with a microfiber absorbent in order to improve the dewatering efficiency.

Art Unit: 3749

3. Claims 5, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibuya (JP8-49161) in view of Takeuchi (JP06126098A) as applied to claims 1 and 12 as above and further in view of Henry et al. (U. S. Pat. 6,722,053).

The method and apparatus of Shibuya as modified by Takeuchi as above includes all that is recited in claims 5 and 15 except for the pressure-exerting roller for squeeze drying. Henry et al. teach a concept of using pressure-exerting roller 5 for squeeze drying same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the cloth dewatering method and apparatus of Shibuya with pressure-exerting roller as taught by Henry et al. in order to remove the moisture from the absorbent body by squeezing.

4. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeuchi (JP06126098A) in view of Shibuya (JP8-49161).

Takeuchi shows a method for cloth dewatering. The cloth 12 is successively brought in contact with absorbent body 23 of absorbent material 38, 40 same as applicant's. Shibuya teaches a concept of using gas jets (at 36) for dewatering purposes same as applicant's. therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify method of Takeuchi to include a step of subject the item of clothing to at least one gas jet as taught by Shibuya in order to remove the moisture from the clothing.

5. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeuchi (JP06126098A) in view of Henry et al. (U. S. Pat. 6,722,053).

Takeuchi shows an apparatus for cloth dewatering. The cloth 12 is

Art Unit: 3749

successively brought in contact with absorbent body 23 of absorbent material 38, 40 same as applicant's. Henry et al. teach a concept of using pressure-exerting roller 5 for squeeze drying same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the cloth dewatering method and apparatus of Takeuchi with pressure-exerting roller as taught by Takeuchi in order to remove the moisture from the absorbent body by squeezing. With regard to the claimed material of the absorbent body in claim 16, examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the moisture removing art to use microfiber material as absorbent. Therefore, it would have obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the cloth dewatering apparatus of Takeuchi with a microfiber absorbent in order to improve the dewatering efficiency.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 3-4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 12/16/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With regard to claim 16, the Japanese patent to Takeuchi does show the clothing item 12 is successively brought in contact with absorbent body 23 of absorbent material 38, 40. The US patent to Henry et al. teach the use of pressure-exerting roller 5 for squeeze drying purposes.

Art Unit: 3749

Therefore, it is the examiner's position that one skilled in the art would have been able to derive the broadly claimed invention in order to remove the moisture from the absorbent body by squeezing.

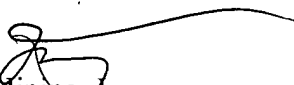
8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2, 5-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jiping Lu whose telephone number is 571 272 4878. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ira Lazarus can be reached on 571 272-4877. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jiping Lu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3749

J. L.